

A1
of left and right handed alternating "off-radial ribs" 46 and 48, respectively. Note that the left and right handed ribs contact and are joined to the inner and outer tubes, respectively, out of contact with each other. This is to be compared to the structure shown in Fig. 2 where the left and right handed ribs contact each other at the same place as they contact the inner and outer tubes, respectively. In Fig. 4, the truss cells 49 that have been created have a generally trapezoidal cross section.

Kindly amend the first paragraph of page 18 as follows:

7 8
718
718
A2
718
Figs. ~~5~~ 7 and ~~6~~ 8 show an apparatus that is similar to that shown in Figs. 5 and 6 but with two intertwined belts ~~52~~ 52 and 62, both pulling and rotating the tube 50 in the same direction. The first belt 52 exerts lateral forces 52a and 52b on the tube 50 which are axially displaced from each other, thus providing a bending moment on the tube 50. The bending forces are exactly equal, and opposite to, and thereby cancelled by, the forces 62a and 62b that are being exerted by the belt 62. The result is that there is no total bending moment applied to the tube 50 by the twisting mechanism of this aspect of this invention.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend the following claims as indicated:

A3
1. (Amended) A composite tube comprising at least one axially elongated, substantially rigid inner tubular wall, at least one axially elongated, substantially rigid outer tubular wall spaced from said inner tubular wall, and a plurality of substantially rigid ribs helically disposed in the space between the inner and outer walls; wherein at least some of said ribs are joined to both said inner and outer walls along a sufficient portion of the axial length of said walls to maintain the spacing between said walls.

48

(Amended) A composite tube as claimed in claim 1 wherein at least some of

A4

said ribs are disposed at an angle, that differs from perpendicular, with respect to said inner tubular wall.

A5

9. (Amended) A composite tube as claimed in claim 1 wherein at least some of

said ribs are simultaneously contacted and adhered to at least one of said inner and outer tubes, respectively, at a location that is spaced from the location where the next adjacent ribs are contacted with and adhered to said inner and outer tubes so as to form generally longitudinal truss cells having a substantially trapezoidal cross section.

A6

10. A composite tube as claimed in claim 9 wherein all of said ribs are alternately disposed at positive and negative angles away from normal with respect to said inner and outer tubes.

11. A composite tube as claimed in claim 1 wherein said ribs extend the entire longitudinal length of said composite tube.

Kindly cancel claim 12.

Kindly cancel claims 16 to 20, both inclusive, without prejudice to filing one or more division applications directed to their subject matter.

Kindly cancel claims 22 to 24, both inclusive, without prejudice to filing one or more division applications directed to their subject matter.